Vice President of the European Commission to India from 26 to 28 October 1991, he expressed the view that if there was inadequate protection for intellectual property rights, foreign investment in India would be affected.

(b) Government does not agree with this view. India will be able to attract foreign direct investment as a result of the measures taken recently. India's intellectual property regime compares favourably with that of other developing countries and even with that of many industrialised countries. However, it is primarily in the area of patents that the Indian law differs from that of other countries. This is on account of our concerns regarding food security and access to health care and medicines at affordable prices.

**Promotion of Production and Export of Tea**

1028. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to increase production of tea; and

(b) if so, the various efforts made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Measures taken by the Government to increase production of tea include:

(i) Short term measures such as promoting optimisation of inputs and improved cultural practices.

(ii) Medium term measures such as promoting irrigation, drainage, rejuvenation, pruning and infilling.

(iii) Long-term measures such as promoting extension planting and replanting.

In this direction, the Tea Board operates a number of schemes such as Tea Plantation Finance Scheme, Tea Machinery and Irrigation Equipment Hire Purchase Scheme, Tea Area Rejuvenation and Consolidation Scheme, New Tea Unit Financing Scheme for non-traditional areas. Darjeeling Interest Subsidy Scheme Interest subsidy on Bank loan for irrigation and drainage Interest subsidy scheme on bank loan for extension planting, and Special Subsidy Scheme for conversion of vegetable land in tea cultivation in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu.

**Amount of Exports in Dollar**

1029. SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the actual amount of total export in terms of dollar, month-wise during the last three years till the end of 31st October, 1991; and

(b) what is the percentage of growth in this regard as achieved during each quarter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) INDIA's EXPORT BY MONTH: 1988-89 TO APRIL-SEPT. 1991-92.

(Value US $ Million)

| Period | 1988-89 | 1989-90 | 1990-91 | 1991-92 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| April | 1094 | 1246 | 1424 | 1488 |
| May | 1101 | 1283 | 1509 | 1292 |
| June | 998 | 1200 | 1328 | 1225 |